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50X1 HUM

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

SUBJECT Industrial Information

REPORT

DATE DISTR. 10 Sept. 1953

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REFERENCES

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

Attached is a report containing information on a mercury mine at Idrija, Slovenia.

Enclosures: 4 pages as described above.

Distribution: ORR.

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STATE		ARMY		NAVY		AIR		FBI		AEC				

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[redacted]

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[redacted]

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Information on Yugoslavia [redacted]

[redacted]

B) E c o n o m i c I n f o r m a t i o n

I) I n d u s t r y

a) E x t r a c t i v e I n d u s t r y (M i n i n g)

April Mercury Mine with the Annexed Establishment for Its Preparation Bled Idria RM-DH

[redacted] 50X1-HUM

Location : known.

Personnel of the Mine and the Annexed Establishment

Director : a former gardener, who belonged to the partisan formations,

[redacted] he is in charge since 1951. 50X1-HUM

Number of Workers :

about 1,000 work in the pits,

about 200 - some 50 of them are women - work outside (on the ground).

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Work Shifts

in the mine : 2 shifts of 8 hours, as follows :
from 4 to 12 h.
from 12 to 20 h.

in the establishment : 3 shifts of 8 hours :
from 4 to 12 h.
from 12 to 20 h.
from 20 to 4 h.

Every 3 to 4 months, about one hundred workers go - in turn - to work from the mine to the establishment.

Production

The quantity of extracted raw material (ore) is not known [redacted] 50X1-HUM

[redacted] However, [redacted] the establishment produces daily 50X1-HUM

about 1 ton of pure mercury; it is poured in metallic receptacles 50X1-HUM

(vases) of a capacity of about 48 kilograms; a total of about 200 such vases is filled daily.

Extraction and Preparation Processes

Since 1948, American made perforators are used for the ore extraction. Before its preparation, the ore passes through three selections; the first selection is made by the miners themselves in the mine; they evaluate the ore richer in mercury, which is not difficult at all, because such ore is darker. The two successive selections are made in the establishment.

Destination of Production

Most of the mercury is exported [redacted] 50X1-HUM

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Description of the Compound

T h e M i n e :

has two entrance pits, of which :

one has 15 stories of tunnels, and is about 900 m. deep;

the other has 12 stories of tunnels, and is about 700 m. deep.

The depth (distance) between the tunnels is about 24 to 30 meters.

The ore is lifted to the above ground by elevators. From the mine to the establishment, the ore is transported by Decauville cars drawn by an electric locomotive.

T h e E s t a b l i s h m e n t

It consists of 4 masonry buildings (pavillons), roofs with two slopes, dimensioned as follows :

1st construction :	50 x 30 m.
2nd	"	10 x 8 m.
3rd	"	40 x 15 m.
4th	"	20 x 15 m.

Offices

They are lodged in a six-storied building located at about 20 m. from the establishment.

Electric Power

Furnished directly by the TRBOVLJE Central (Carta J - Celje - ZT-DR).

Salaries

They are given monthly - but can also be paid every 15 days - and vary from 300 to 500 dinars daily, according to the category of the worker.

Daily Norm (Amount) of Work

It is established that every miner has to mine 1 cubic meter of ore

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daily; this cubic meter is measured before the miner begins his work of extraction.

Work Equipment

It does not exist. The work clothes as well as the acetylene lamps belong to the miners themselves.

Medical Care

Medical examinations are occasionally effectuated in superficial manner by a doctor from the Civilian Hospital of Idria; sometimes it takes months before the doctor in question comes.

In October 1952, an automobile ambulance came from Ljubljana, and all the miners were X-rayed; 90 % were affected with mostly pulmonary diseases; ten were dismissed as unable to work.

Mess (Restaurant)

It existed until 1952, when it was closed.

Protective Measures

The establishment is enclosed by a wall. Some workers are charged to watch.

Strikes - Sabotage

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[redacted] there were none [redacted]

[redacted]

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